

Jeremy Sokulsky,
Environmental Incentives

Central Valley Habitat Exchange



Photo credit: Gina Collecchia

Goal of the Exchange

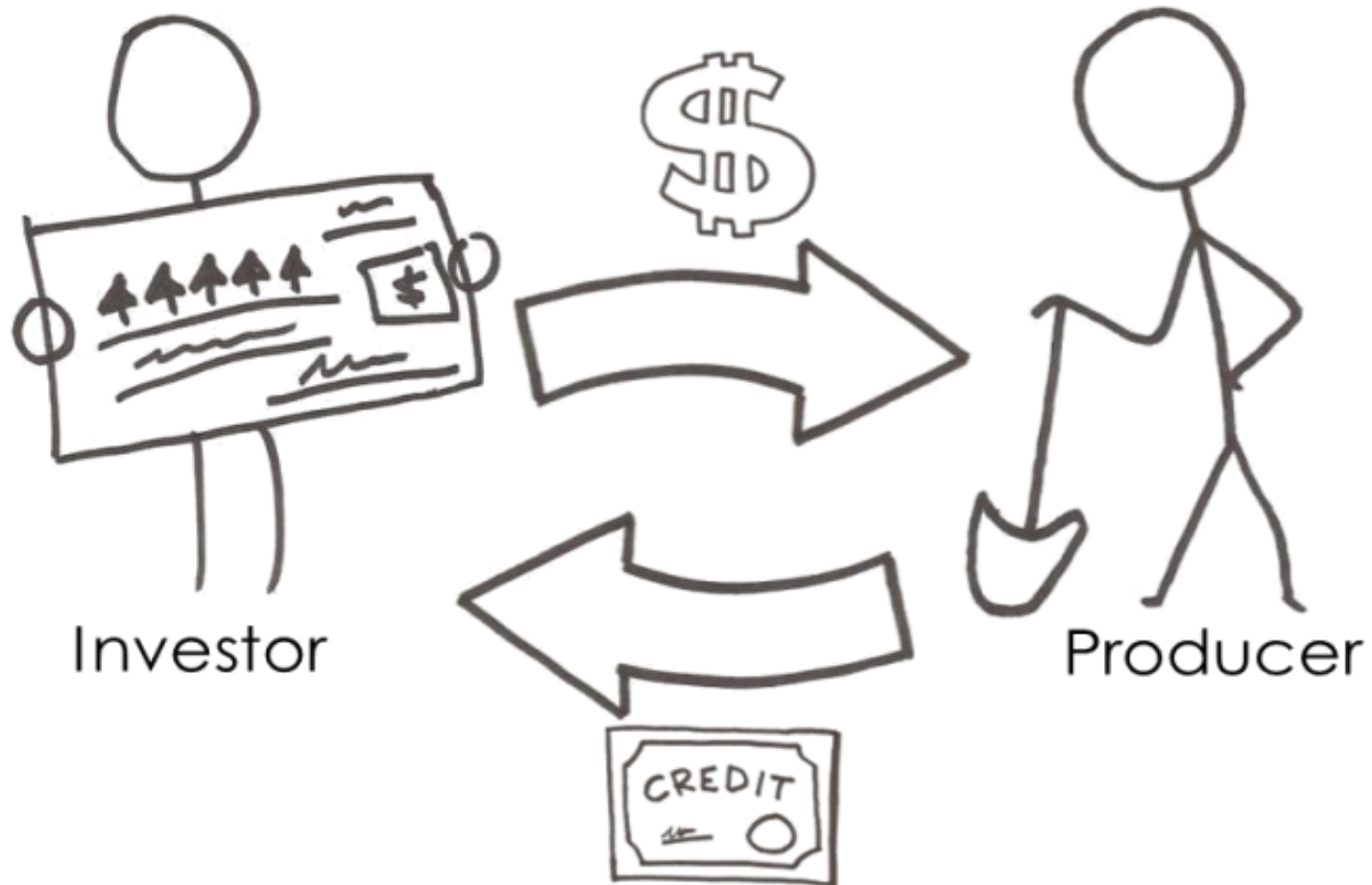
Create a market framework for floodplain restoration in the Central Valley that will engage private landowners to fulfill state conservation goals and improve the ecosystem function of our river systems.



Collaborative Effort

- American Rivers
- Environmental Defense Fund
- Point Blue Conservation Science
- Trout Unlimited
- CalTrout
- Delta Conservancy
- Department of Conservation
- California Farm Bureau
- Knaggs Ranch, LLC.
- Environmental Incentives, LLC.

How the Exchange Works



Technical Framework— describes the habitat benefits of floodplain restoration for multiple-species

Landscape attributes and processes



Habitat benefits

Landform and structure



Riparian songbird Habitat



Frequency and duration of inundation events



Waterbird Habitat



Water quality



Salmon Habitat



The Central Valley Habitat Exchange will...

- Empower private landowners to be paid for wildlife friendly agricultural practices.
- Quantify habitat benefits in functional acres
- Harness the power of the market
- Provide regulatory certainty for landowners and developers
- Encourage agencies and landowners to explore innovative conservation actions



Benefits for Landowners

- Makes it *profitable* to increase the environmental benefits their land can provide, even as they maintain or increase their productivity
- Involves them directly in process and outcomes
- Provides financial incentives for conservation
- Links them more directly to investors
- Helps reduce regulatory risk

Benefits for Public and Private Investors

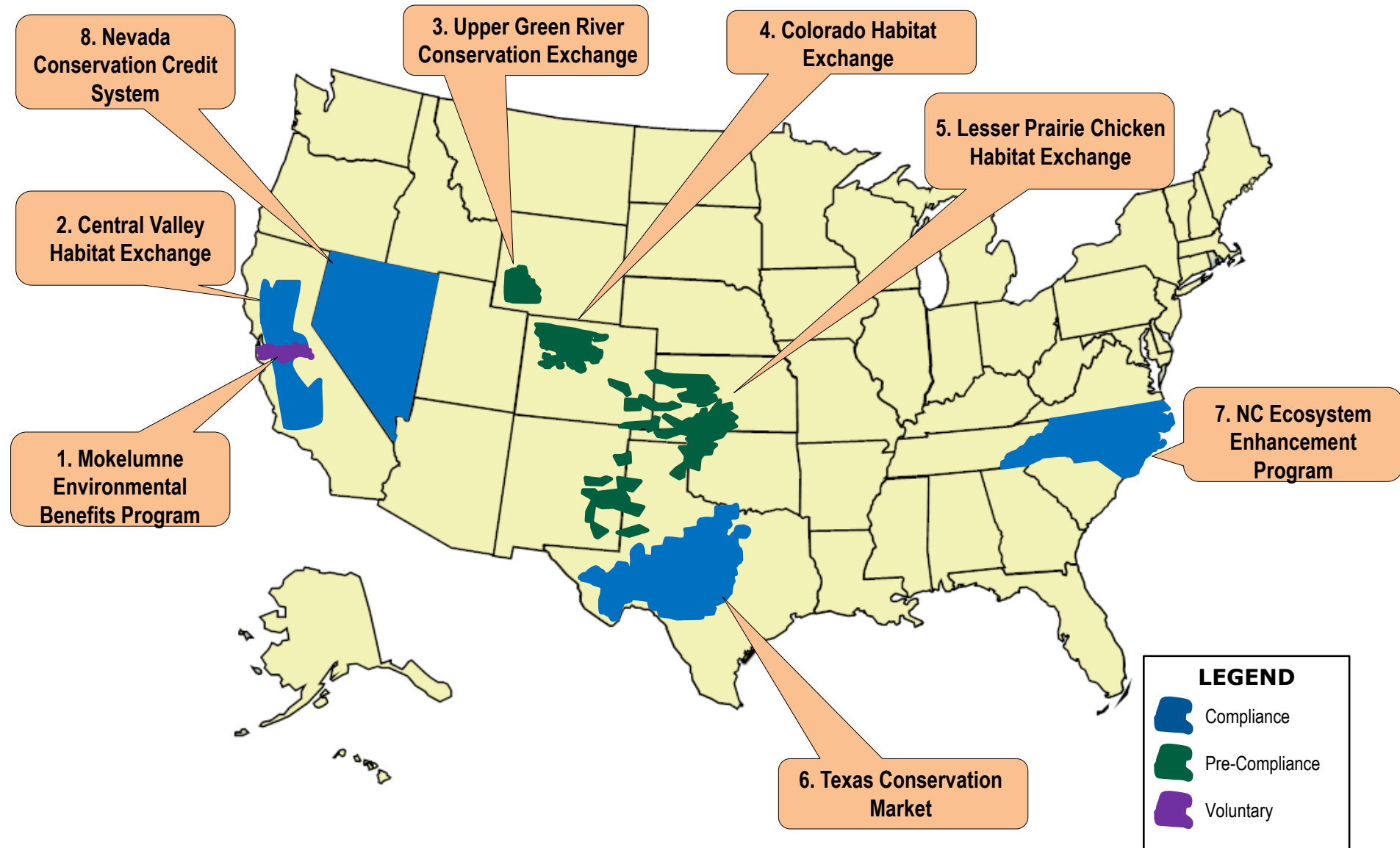
- Increased predictability for project approvals and permits
 - Faster Timeline
 - Reduced Cost
- Improves reputation, social license to operate
- Reduced direct staff and contracting costs
- Larger, more meaningful conservation projects that reduce future regulatory risk

Benefits for Species and the Environment

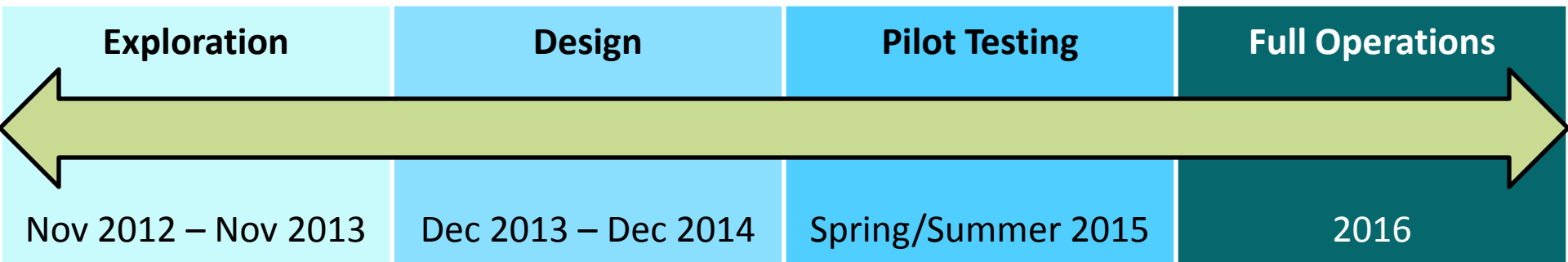
- Links impacts directly to scientifically quantified and verified outcomes
- Expands private investment in conservation
- Quantifies ecosystem benefits of multi-species projects
- Larger projects possible - aggregation
- Integrates landscape conservation



Habitat Exchanges at Work



Development Timeline



Conservation will ultimately boil down to rewarding the private landowner who conserves the public interest.

-Aldo Leopold, 1934

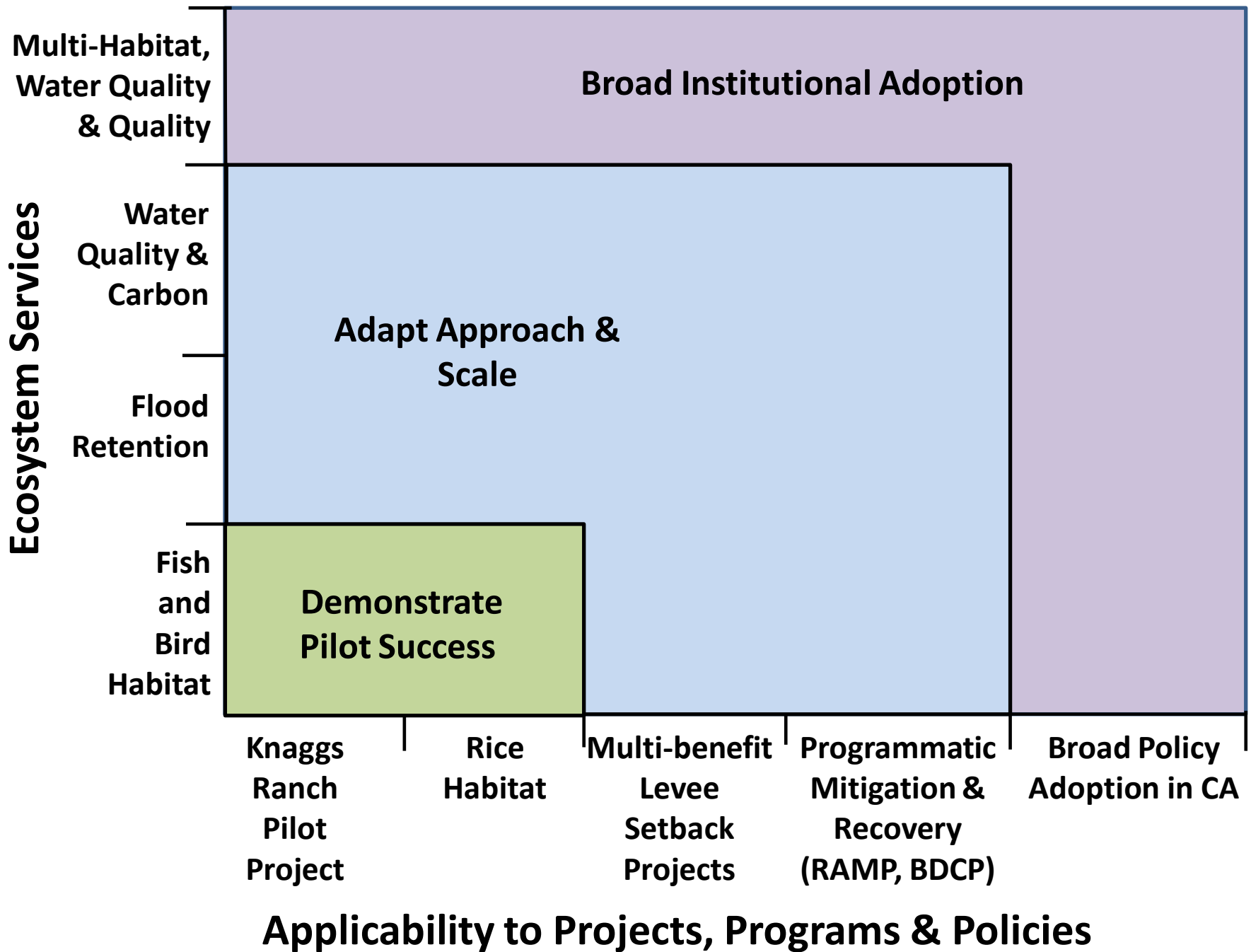
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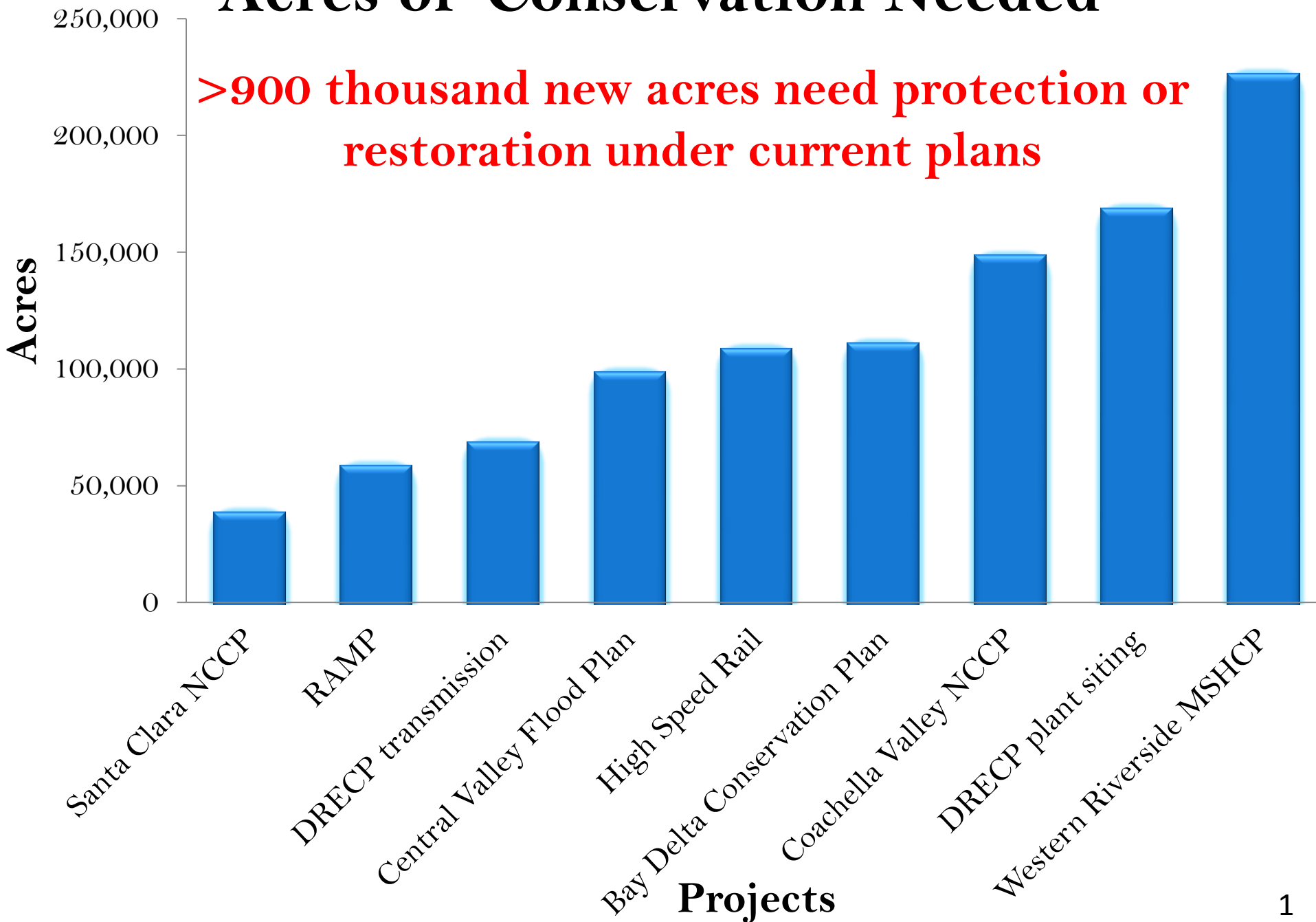


EXTRA SLIDES



Acres of Conservation Needed

>900 thousand new acres need protection or restoration under current plans



Mitigation & Conservation Challenges

1. Private landowners view floodplain restoration as incompatible with a thriving agricultural economy in the Central Valley.
2. Lack of tools to identify and quantify restoration opportunities.
3. Cumbersome planning and regulatory approval cause delays, which increases the cost of restoring habitat.

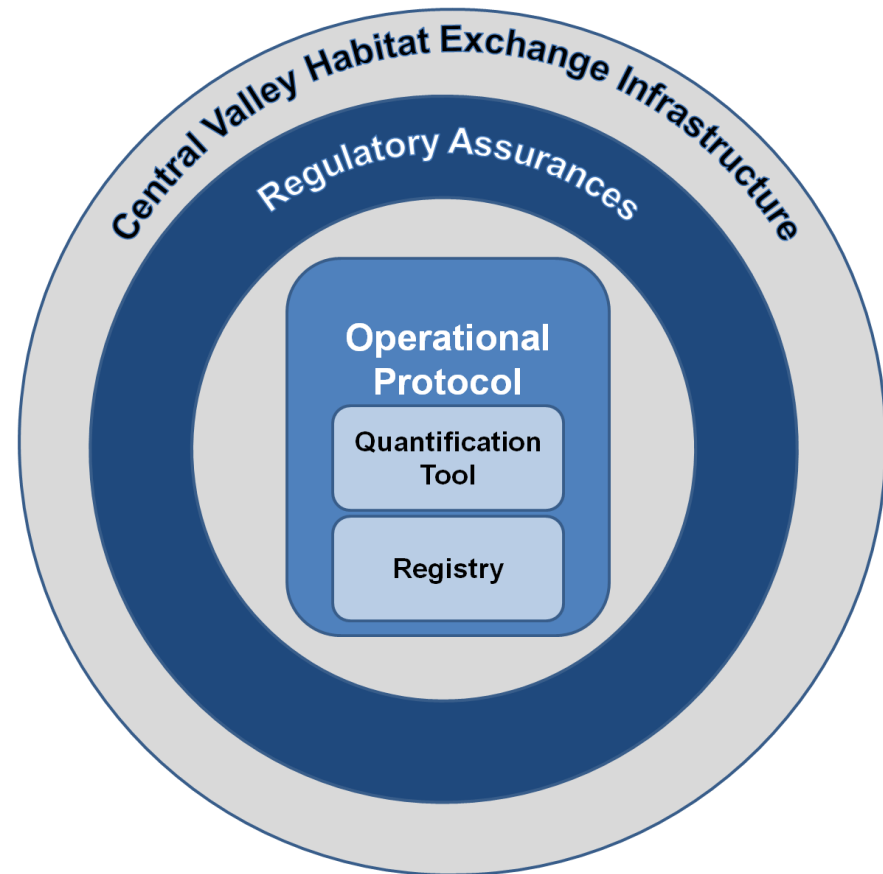
Essential Components

Regulatory Assurances: Agreements with regulators that the conservation activities satisfy regulatory requirements

Exchange Manual: Defines the rules and procedures to facilitate transactions and ensures adaptive management

Quantification Tool/Technical Framework: Measures the environmental improvement desired, including quality wildlife habitat, improved riparian function, etc.

Registry: Tracks credits generated and progress towards goals



Habitat Exchange is:

A mechanism for market-based, financial transactions for voluntary or mandatory compensatory mitigation whereby a quantified and verified unit of wildlife habitat (called a credit) is purchased by an investor – such as a developer, from a producer – such as a landowner.

